THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Application for environmental clearance submitted by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited to Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in September 1989 has been evaluated by an Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) constituted by the Ministry. All clarifications, as also additional particulars have been furnished and specific presentations have been made to the EAC.

Location of Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala

641. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the location of the proposed nuclear power plant in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) (a) No, Sir. Not yet.

(b) A Selection Committee appointed for this purpose has recommended a site at Peringome on the suggestion of the State Electricity Board. This site is being investigated at present for its suitability.

Radiation from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

642. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report of HTV Eye Witness has confirmed the rising number of deformities among villagers near Rajasthan Atomic Power station due to radiation;

(b) if so, whether Government have constituted or propose to constitute any independent medico-scientific body to inquire into this aspect covering all the nearby residential areas of various atomic power stations in the country; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate the victims of the reported atomic radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There have been reports in the media including HTV Eye witness about certain health problems in some villages near Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS). There is no scientific evidence to confirm any linkage of these problems to RAPS.

(b) Surveys conducted by expert team of medical officers of Rajasthan Government have revealed that the health deficiencies observed were not attributable to radiation induced diseases. The contributing factors to the health problems are observed to be malnutrition and lack of potable water supply and health care facilities. Details on low level radioactivity releases and records of the Environmental Survey Laboratory at RAPS indicate that limits stipulated by the regulatory authorities are being complied with. The health problems reported in the villages have not been evident in either the plant workers or the families living in the nearby township. The operations of RAPS and all the Nuclear Power Stations in the country are reviewed on a continuous basis by an independent regulatory body i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, with respect to safety of the plant, plant personnel and members of the public.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

643. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1991*]